



MEDIA ALERT

Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission
P.O. Box 53127, Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3127
Contact: Tod Bryant 405/525-3556, ext. 106, tod.bryant@iogcc.state.ok.us

NORTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR, TASK FORCE TO DISCUSS OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY MANPOWER ISSUES IN DENVER WEDNESDAY

WHO: North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven, Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) Petroleum Professionals Blue Ribbon Task Force

WHAT: Press briefing/Question and Answer Session

WHERE: The Pinnacle Club, 555 17th St., Suite 3700, Denver

WHEN: Wednesday, October 16, 2002, 1:30 p.m. MDT

WHY: The oil and natural gas industry faces a looming shortage of qualified personnel. The IOGCC's Petroleum Professionals Task Force was formed by Gov. Hoeven, chairman-elect of the IOGCC, to make recommendations to government and industry to address the problem.

Background: America's petroleum industry is faced with a shortage of qualified personnel and bleak prospects for new workers coming up through college ranks to the vital petroleum science careers. The problem is complex: a large part of the industry's current employee base is approaching retirement; reduced research and development funding, coupled with mergers and technological advances have allowed the industry to consolidate its manpower requirements while significantly increasing efficiency. At the same time, undergraduate and graduate programs have experienced a decline in enrollment in the geosciences and petroleum engineering disciplines, which has prevented the industry from replacing the retiring workers.

More Information Available: Visit the IOGCC website (www.iogcc.state.ok.us) and the IOGCC's Geoscience Electronic Resource Center (www.iogcc.state.ok.us/GEOSCIENCE/geomain.htm)

The IOGCC, founded in 1935 to ensure the efficient recovery of domestic petroleum resources while protecting health, safety and the environment, represents the governors of 30 oil and gas producing states. Seven states are associate members, and the IOGCC international program has six affiliates.

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